

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

The Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the specification, claims and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 7, 9-12, 15-20, and 24 are pending. Claims 16, 18 and 24 has been amended and claim 19 has been canceled herein.

Drawings

Figure 1 has been amended herein to correct the lead line for reference number 25. The lead line now correctly points to the sub-portion of flange (12).

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 24 because the statement "the cage having pockets for holding balls" recited in line 10 repeats what is claimed in line 2 of the claim and should be deleted.

Claim 24 has been amended herein. The statement "the cage having pockets for holding balls" in line 10 has been removed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in claim 16 which states “the surface portion” in line 4. Additionally, the Examiner stated it is not understood what the Applicants are attempting to claim in claim 18 which recites “wherein the first flange is recessed on the outer edge of the first flange.”

Claim 16 has been amended herein to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 18 has been amended herein to correct the claim so that it now better understood. Claim 18 now reads “wherein the cage is recessed on the outer edge of the first flange.”

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 9-11, 18 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (JP 2001-140870); claim 7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (JP ‘870) in view of Wilm (U.S. Patent Application 2004/0021506); and claims 12, 15-17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (JP ‘870) in view of Bonengel, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,560,291).

Claim 24 has been amended herein. Claim 19 has been added to claim 24 to further define the present invention. The first flange of the present invention has a guiding surface that opposes the low axial shoulder of the outer bearing ring. The gap

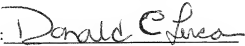
distance between the guiding surface and the run-on surface of the shoulder is always greater than zero. The guiding surface has a beveled surface at its outer edge. The acute angle of the beveled surface aids in greater flow of liquid. Thus, the flange is unique because it contains: (1) an angled sub-portion to aid in better securing the ball bearing; (2) a guiding surface opposing a run-on surface, the surfaces corresponding to each other so as that they always have a uniform gap between them; and (3) a beveled surface on the guiding surface to better aid in the flow of liquid.

Sato does not disclose a guiding surface having a beveled surface. The Examiner stated that Bonengel has a bevel/groove at its outer edge (see, Bonengel Figure 4). However, Applicants respectfully disagree. Bonengel does not disclose all of the aspects of the first flange disclosed in the present invention. The inner surfaces of the flanges in Bonengel are rounded; they are not angled. Bonengel does not disclose a guiding surface opposing a run-on surface and the bevel/groove in Bonengel is not the same as the bevel in the present invention. The bevel in the first flange of Bonengel is located in a groove or pocket (Figure 4 as referenced by the Examiner). The bevel of Bonengel does not extend from the outer edge of a run-on surface. Even turning to Figure 1 of Bonengel, the beveled edge is not similar to the present invention. There, the bevel exists on the second flange and serves a different purpose. Turning to Wilm, the first flange discloses a slightly beveled surface. However, the angle is not acute and cannot accommodate a sudden fluctuation or higher flow of liquid, and similar to Bonengel, the inner surfaces of the flanges are rounded, not angled. Thus, the present invention is not anticipated and is patentable over the prior art disclosed independently or in combination.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: 
Donald C. Lucas, Reg. No. 31,275
Attorney for Applicants(s)
475 Park Avenue South, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10016
Tel. (212) 661-8000 Fax (212) 661-8002

DCL/JRW/ns